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CRIMINAL REFORM AS AN INDUSTRY

Moving Pictures in Italy.—The Italian government in ministerial circulars (Mar. 15, 1907, Mar. 31, 1908, Aug. 25, 1910), had already recognized the bearing of moving picture theaters upon public morals and public order. In Italy as in America, the "movies" tended to glorify the most brutal instincts and perversions of moral sense, or at least to represent such things as tolerable and innocuous. By easy inference such spectacles tend to cast odium upon law and order, and upon the public authorities. Hence the government has issued a new and more explicit circular (Feb. 20, 1913), calling for more careful inspection and censoring of "movies." No cinematographic spectacle is to be permitted without having first been performed before the proper licensing authorities. Having once been authorized it must produce its license every time it is put on in a new place. Licenses are absolutely prohibited to the following: (a) spectacles contrary to good habits and public decency; (b) spectacles contrary to national dignity, honor or repute, or contrary to public order, or which might disturb good international relations; (c) spectacles reproducing striking crimes or acts or facts which might serve as a school of crime to impressionable persons; (d) spectacles offensive to the dignity, or prestige of the public authorities and of the agents or functionaries of the police service; (e) scenes of cruelty, concerning either men or animals, or acts or facts which might induce disgust, *e. g.*, surgical operations. (*Rivista Penale*, June, 1913.)

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PENOLOGY.

Criminal Reform as an Industry.—"Massachusetts has an extraordinary opportunity, as it seems to me, to be both the pioneer and the instructor of the whole country in developing and applying a new and better treatment of persons convicted of crime. It already possesses a greater number and a greater variety of public institutions than any other state in the country, perhaps than any foreign country. It has in a scattered and unco-ordinated form practically every agency that is required for the adequate study and management of its anti-social members. Some changes and improvements are, of course, needed, but mainly through the proper rearrangement of its existing agencies it can set and maintain the standards of a new and more practical and more humane penology.

"Chairman Randall of the Board of Prison Commissioners made this statement in preface to an explanation of what the board wishes to accomplish through the group of nineteen bills affecting prison control and criminal procedure, which it has filed with the legislature. His own ideals of what the new penology should be and how it should accomplish its purposes were set forth in an interview in the *Transcript* last summer. It should be a matter of satisfaction to the public that Chairman Randall's study of our penal appliances during the months since then has convinced him, as one of the country's foremost penologists, that Massachusetts does not need to build a new house, but to rearrange in better fashion the furnishings and administration of what she already has.

"This point is of no small consequence. If the reform of our treatment of criminals on modern and progressive lines required a huge expenditure of new capital for plant, conservatism and timidity might easily be hidden behind